

ORIGINAL SIGNED 7-29-04

Ms. Laurie Allen
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service - 13th floor
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Allen:

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) respectfully requests the initiation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7(a)(2) consultation. This consultation request addresses nineteen (19) Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESU's) of Pacific salmon and steelhead that have been listed as Federally endangered or threatened, and one pesticide active ingredient registered by EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), for uses within the rearing and spawning areas of the listed ESUs. The pesticide active ingredient subject to this request is *dimethoate*, an organophosphate insecticide used on a variety of food and non-food sites to control pests such as scale, thrip, aphid, mites, grasshoppers, and flies. It is also available for residential use to control flies in a ready-to-use aerosol formulation.

Based on data from the state pesticide regulatory agencies, dimethoate has been replaced to large measure by other, less costly products for commercial purposes. In spite of this valuable information regarding actual practice we have determined that dimethoate either may affect, or may affect but is not likely to adversely affect 19 ESUs in their spawning and rearing areas only, through a reduction in food supply. This ingredient is relatively toxic to aquatic invertebrates. That toxicity combined with the potential use that could occur in these sensitive environments leads to these conclusions.

Our long-term intent is to make effects determinations and consult, as appropriate, relative to all listed species and locations. However, as per agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, this request is limited to Pacific salmon and steelhead for which NMFS has responsibility. A summary table at the back of the attached analysis indicates the specific determinations made for each of the ESUs. I am requesting your concurrence, under the informal consultation process, on OPP's determination that the registered use of dimethoate is not likely to adversely affect the following listed Pacific salmon and steelhead ESU's: Central California Coast, and Central Valley California steelhead; Sacramento River winter run and Central Valley spring run Chinook; and the Columbia River Chum. Additionally, I am requesting formal consultation for the following ESU's for which we have made a determination that dimethoate may affect the species: Upper Columbia River, Snake River Basin, Upper Willamette River, Lower Columbia River, and Middle Columbia

River steelhead; Snake River fall run, Snake River spring/summer run, Puget Sound, Lower Columbia, Upper Willamette, and Upper Columbia chinook; Southern Oregon/Northern California and Oregon Coast coho; and the Snake River sockeye salmon.

I look forward to working with NMFS to protect and help recover listed species. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or your technical staff may contact Michael Patterson, our review biologists, at (703) 305-5239.

enclosures

Sincerely,

Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Chief
Environmental Field Branch
Field and External Affairs Division (7506C)

cc: Craig Johnson